

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 20346 121841Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----024295 121844Z /47

P R 121835Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5605
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T PARIS 20346

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SO, US, ET, MASS, PDEV, MOPS, FR
SUBJECT: SOMALIA REQUESTS US ARMS

REF: STATE 161221

1. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH REACTION TO THE PROPOSED
U.S. POSITION WOULD BE ONE OF UNDERSTANDING. THE QUAI
HAS SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO WOO THE SOMALIS AWAY FROM THE
SOVIETS AND VIEWS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE NORMAL
RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AS PART OF THAT PROCESS. AT
THE SAME TIME, THE FRENCH RECOGNIZE, OFTEN REGRETFULLY,
THE CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH
THE U.S. MUST OPERATE WHERE ARMS DELIVERIES TO AFRICA

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ARE CONCERNED.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ALWAYS FELT
THAT THE U.S. SHOULD MAINTAIN WHATEVER TIES IT CAN WITH
ETHIOPIA IN ORDER TO BE IN THE OPTIMUM POSITION TO
COUNSEL MODERATION IN ADDIS ABABA SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES
PERMIT. BY THE SAME TOKEN, THE FRENCH THEMSELVES ARE

HESITANT TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO SOMALI ARMS
REQUESTS ON THE THEORY THAT TO DO SO WOULD ENDANGER
PARIS' EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A BALANCED POSITION BETWEEN
MOGADISCIO AND ADDIS AND RISK THE TOTAL LOSS OF FRENCH
INFLUENCE IN ETHIOPIA.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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SAS ID: 1888945
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: SOMALIA REQUESTS US ARMS
TAGS: MASS, PDEV, MOPS, SO, US, ET, FR
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